Under utilization of Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan Funds

197. SHRI EKANATH K. THAKUR: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government's Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan shows a big gap between plans and their implementation during this financial year;

(b) whether it is a fact that only one fourth of the amount approved for the nation-wide education project Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan was actually spent by the States;

(c) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(d) the details of the unutilised funds?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI MD. ALI ASHRAF FATMI): (a) During this financial year 565 district based Annual Work Plans and Budgets have so far been approved. The process to cover the remaining is underway.

(b) to (d) No, Sir. Against releases to States totalling Rs. 2732.32 crores during 2003-2004, an expenditure of Rs. 3617.88 crores was reported by the States, which includes their State shares.

Children covered under Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan

198. SHRI RAMA MUNI REDDY SIRIGIREDDY: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) the number of children covered under the Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan since its inception; State-wise;

(b) what measures Government propose to take to attain the gender parity in education by 2005; and

(c) whether it is fact that UNICEF's recent report appreciated the Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan initiated by Government?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI MD. ALI ASHRAF FATMI): (a) In the year 2001-2002, out of 19.2 crore children in the 6-14 year age group, 15.7 crore children were enrolled in schools. At the end of year 2002-2003, the number of out of school children declined to 2.3 crore. State-wise position given in Statement (*See* below).